Distribution of Foodgrains in Bihar

762. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what was the month-wise demand and supply of foodgrains through Public Distribution System in respect of Bihar during the year 1986;

(b) the steps Government propose to take to ease the situation of non-availability of foodgrains at Fair Price shops in Bihar; and

(c) what steps have been taken to ensure that these supplies reach to beneficiaries and are not diverted to black market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) A statement showing the demand, allotment and offtake of rice and wheat in respect of Bihar during the year 1986 is enclosed. (*See* below).

(b) and (c) At a meeting taken by the Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and Food & Civil Supplies on 14-12-1986 at Patna, it was, *inter alia*, decided that in order to make the functioning of the Public Distribution System in Bihar more effective, more godowns for storage of foodgrains would be constructed, adequate stocks of foodgrains would be maintained in Bihar, supplies of foodgrains to Bihar would be stepped up and additional financial assistance would be given to the Government of Bihar for purchase of mobile vans. Steps have already been taken to implement the above decisions. Central Government has from time to time been impressing upon the State Governments, including the Government of Bihar to strengthen and streamline the Public Distribution System in the State considering that the overall effectiveness of the PDS depends to a great extent on the extent of linkages at the State/District/Block/Village levels for storing, transportation and distribution of essential commodities. State Governments, including Bihar, have also been requested to set up consumer advisory and vigilance committees at various levels including fair price shop levels for ensuring equitable distribution of essential commodities to the beneficiaries.

Statement

Month	Demand	Allotment	Off-take
Rice :			
1986			
January	50·0	25·0	1·5
February	50·0	25·0	1·1
March	50·0	25·0	1·7
April	50·0	25·0	2·6
May	50·0	25·0	5·1
June	50·0	25·0	3·5
July	50·0	25·0	6·2
August	50·0	25·0	6·4

Month	Demand	Allot-ment	Offtake
September	50·0	25·0	6·1
October	50·0	25·0	7·9
November	50·0	25·0	4·3
December	50·0	25·0	4·3
TOTAL :	600.0	300.0	50.7
Wheat :			
1986			
January	100.0	72·0	28·0
February	100.0	72·0	21·9
March	100.0	72·0	30·1
April	100.0	72·0	9·5
May	100.0	72·0	18·1
June	100.0	72·0	14·2
July	100.0	72·0	17·8
August	100.0	72·0	28·7
September	100.0	72·0	34·6
October	100.0	72.0	42·4
November	100.0	72.0	37·8
December	100.0	72.0	28·8
TOTAL :	1200.0	864.0	311.9

Improvement in Public Distribution System in Bihar

763. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that he had visited Bihar recently and discussed with the State Government officials about the effective improvement in the Public Distribution System in that State;

(b) if so, whether demands have been made that the State should be supplied with all the 7 subsidised items for which the Ministry is responsible and which are already being distributed in some Metropolitan Cities;

(c) whether it is also a fact that some of the State Governments at times are not able to lift the supplies made and if so, whether such a situation had arisen with the Government of Bihar also; and

(d) what steps are being taken to ease the situation so that the highly subsidised items of foodgrains are really supplied to the people and system works effectively?